

Issue no. 01/2018: Different fuel filter elements in the same housing height

Fuel filter changes can be a source of irritation in vehicles with 1.6 and 2.0 TDI engines (without a water level sensor in the filter housing) from the Volkswagen Group. This is because the manufacturer uses both long and short filter elements in these engines, yet the filter housing is identical.

So if the MAHLE KX 386 Eco fuel filter element is used, the overall height of this element can differ significantly from that of the old filter. **This is not a nonconformity, however, and does not impair the filter function in any way.**



Figure 2: Old diesel fuel in the filter housing



Figure 1: One housing—two possible filter sizes



Figure 3: Filter housing in the engine bay

IMPORTANT: Before fitting the new filter element, be sure to drain any remaining fuel from the filter housing and dispose of it properly. This minimises the immediate contamination of the new filter with contaminated fuel. In addition, always wet the new rubber gaskets with clean fuel beforehand to avoid damaging them during installation. You will find other important installation notes available for download on our website.

» See also Issue no. 08/2017: Bleeding the fuel system following a filter change